

THE REPUBLIC.

WASHINGTON:

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 5, 1851.

"The series of measures to which I have alluded are regarded by me as a settlement, in principle, and substance—a final settlement of the dangerous and exciting subjects which they embraced."

"By that adjustment we have been rescued from the wide and boundless agitation that surrounded us, and have a firm, distinct, and legal ground to rest upon. And the occasion, I trust, will justify me in expressing my cordial assent to the policy of maintaining that ground as the best, if not the only means, of restoring peace and quiet to the country, and maintaining inviolate the integrity of the Union."

[PRESIDENT FILLMORE'S MESSAGE.]

"The President's message, at the opening of the present session of Congress, expresses fully and plainly his own and the unanimous opinion of those associated with him in the Executive Administration of the Government, in regard to what are called the Adjustment or Compromise measures of last session. That opinion is, that those measures should be regarded in principle as a final settlement of the dangerous and exciting subjects which they embrace; that though they were not free from imperfections, yet, in their mutual dependence and connexion, they formed a system of compromise the most conciliatory and best for the entire country that could be obtained from conflicting sectional interest and opinions, and that therefore they should be adhered to, until time and experience should demonstrate the necessity of further legislation to guard against evasion or abuse. That opinion, so far as I know, remains entirely unchanged, and will be acted upon steadily and decisively. The peace of the country requires this; the security of the Constitution requires this; and every consideration of the public good demands this. If the Administration cannot stand upon the principles of the message, it does not expect to stand at all."

[DANIEL WEBSTER'S LETTER TO THE UNION MEETING AT WESTCHESTER.]

"We observe that the Abolition newspapers are amusing themselves over the 'salvation of the Union,' and the efforts of the men who have taken an active part in the restoration of peace and harmony. It is 'fun alive' to these gentry to crack their jokes at Webster and Clay, for their speeches and measures of pacification. Nothing pleases them better than this, unless it is a chance for a sly hit at some simple-hearted person who has ventured to say in the pulpit that the laws ought to be obeyed, and that it is no part of a Christian's duty to resist their execution. Then it is first-rate sport to smoke the old fellows who have joined in the Union meetings, and have sought to revive the sentiments of fraternity and good neighborhood that once prevailed among the States. All these sources of mirth the Abolitionists and Disunionists draw upon almost daily, and seem to think that the country has got so safely out of one convulsion that it is about time to amuse themselves with another. Since South Carolina is apparently disposed to abandon the idea of nullification, they desire to encourage Massachusetts in taking it up."

"For some months the Abolitionists in our northern Legislatures, as in Congress, were comparatively inactive. They were overwhelmed by the expression of public sentiment in behalf of the Compromise that was called forth by the President's message. They thought it hardly worth while to stem the current of opinion, content to float along on its surface. But now, it seems, they think it expedient to abandon their acquiescent policy. They must at least lay the foundation for another excitement. Materials for this purpose have sometimes been supplied as largely by Massachusetts as by South Carolina. The people of the two States are equally obstinate in their prejudices, equally sectional, equally inclined to believe that nothing can go on right unless it is on the precise square with their own notions. A good people, both of them, equally brave, generous, and high-spirited, but both unfortunately suffering under some fashion of political mania that has frequently impaired their due influence and importance in public affairs. Massachusetts ran mad in opposition to the war with Great Britain; and her politicians repudiated SAMUEL DEXTER for taking the part of the Union, just as they are now abjuring Mr. WEBSTER for a similar reason. Mr. BUCKINGHAM's committee have gone into nullification about as deeply as any of the QUATTREMAIRES; and we see that the citizens of New Bedford, under the stimulus of the *Mercury*, have embarked in it so extensively that even the *Mercury* has become alarmed. In a meeting called in pursuance of a warrant issued by the city authorities, the citizens of that town, by a vote of 145 to 4, have instructed their representatives in the Legislature to give their support to the bill and resolutions of Mr. BUCKINGHAM, which directly nullify the recent Fugitive Slave law of Congress, and array the authorities of the State in open hostility to the Government of the United States. And in the same breath these consistent gentlemen express their devotion to the Union! They love the Union, but propose to resist its laws. They love the Union, but advise measures which, if carried out and followed to any extent by other States, will inevitably lead to its dissolution. They love the Union, but they are willing to see it sacrificed rather than be called upon to give effect to the Constitution on which it rests. They love the Union, provided they can secure all its advantages, and relieve themselves from all its obligations."

"How far this attempt at nullification will be carried remains to be seen. The fact that it has been made is sufficient to demonstrate the wisdom and necessity of the decided stand that has been taken by the Administration in favor of the Compromise. It demonstrates the necessity of adhering to it in good faith in all its parts. If there had been any faltering on the subject—if the Administration had paltered with its duty—if it had hesitated to assume the responsibility—if it had withheld its earnest and sincere encouragement from the good men in all sections who have sought to reconcile and harmonize local and conflicting passions and interests—there is every reason to believe that other States, North and South, would have given way to the fanaticism which now seems to prevail in Massachusetts, and which we hope to be dying away in South Carolina."

"The Abolition journals may continue to fan the expiring agitation. They may stimulate and encourage nullification in the spirit of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society—which announces that it seeks the destruction of slavery 'over the ruins of the American Church and the American State.' They may continue to advise forcible resistance to the laws, and call upon the free negroes and fugitives to 'arm themselves to the teeth,' and to die, if need be, in opposing the Federal authorities. They may induce legislators to

engage in nullification, and to advise rebellion and treason; or, as far as in them lies, to organize rebellion and treason, by setting up State authorities against the Federal Government. But the evil will fall upon the heads of their deluded victims. Under any and all circumstances the laws of the United States will be executed with all the power of the United States. Our Government is not such a mere shadow that it can be successfully defied by unauthorized mobs or by factious Commonwealths. Sustained in their adherence to the Compromise by the confidence and support of an immense majority of the AMERICAN PEOPLE; anxious only to discharge their entire duty to the whole country; tranquil in the consciousness of upright and patriotic purposes; the Administration will continue to pursue the policy they have marked out, and leave consequences to that Providence in whose hands are the destinies of nations."

Who pays the Duty, the Producer or the Consumer?

We gave, on Monday, some facts in relation to the British monopoly of tin, and we now desire to invite the attention of our readers to some in relation to the British monopoly of iron, which we take from the same paper in the London *Morning Chronicle*. They are as follows:

"In 1843 the make of iron in Great Britain was 1,210,000 tons; estimated quantity exported, 460,000 tons; and the price of bar iron per ton in Wales, £4 5s. In 1850 the make of iron in Great Britain was 2,150,000 tons; the export would consume of this at least 1,000,000. The price of bar-iron per ton in Wales, £4 10s. to £5. It is pretty evident that this return that our foreign iron trade is no phantom."

"The price at present is not so ruinously low as to prevent enlargement of works."

"The four largest iron-masters in Wales are putting up new engines or mills."

"In Staffordshire, Yorkshire, and Northumberland the make is increasing, and in Scotland not a furnace more than the average is out of blast. In no other country in the world has the stimulated and excessive supply of 1846 and 1847 kept up in quantity. In France, the United States, and Germany, the quantity made has gone back to the production of 1845; and we know nothing is so ruinous to a manufacturer as reducing his make, blowing out his furnaces, and stopping his mills. When we see large manufacturers, and Mr. Croker amongst them, increasing their production so largely since 1843, and the price also improved, is it not evident that the present position is considered temporary, and arising from the collapse in railway works, as regards malleable and pig iron? As regards tin plates, I am sure Mr. Croker, in his heart, hopes he may never get a worse price."

"In 1842 the quantity of iron produced in this country was 200,000 tons. In 1848, under efficient protection, it had reached 800,000 tons. So long as the railroad excitement of England lasted the home demand absorbed nearly all that was produced; but with the close of that scene of madness, so nearly resembling that now going on in this country, the effect of our 800,000 tons, in increasing the general supply of the world, began to be felt in the reduction of English prices. Fortunately for the British iron-masters Mr. WALKER came to their aid, and, by reducing the duty, enabled them to throw upon us a part of the duty, by first closing our mills and then raising their prices. It will be seen by the above extract that the price of bar iron is now higher by ten to fifteen shillings (\$2.22 to \$2.33) than it was in 1843, and that the present position of affairs is regarded only as 'temporary,' and that higher prices are to be looked for. It is temporary, for when the remaining furnaces of the country shall be blown out, and Great Britain shall have been re-established in her monopoly, prices will again be as high as they were in 1846, and then it will be found that it is the consumer who pays the duty, in the enhancement of the foreign price, precisely as in the case of the tin plates quoted on Monday."

"Nothing, we are assured in the above extract, is 'so ruinous to a manufacturer as blowing out his furnaces, reducing his make, and stopping his mills.' Mr. WALKER has already blown out several hundred furnaces, and has stopped nearly all our rolling-mills, while he has 'reduced the make' in nearly all our cotton mills, and has closed entirely great numbers of them, for the purpose of restoring to Britain her monopoly of the manufacture of iron and of cloth; and it might be interesting to him now to make an estimate of the amount of ruin which he has been the cause. He was invited by Mr. CAREY to an examination of this and other questions connected with the wants of his revenue system, but we have not yet seen any public announcement of his acceptance of the invitation."

Another Slave Case in Boston.

By reference to a telegraphic despatch to be found in the appropriate column of this paper, it will be perceived that another arrest of a fugitive slave has taken place in the city of Boston, and that in this case, though an outrage has been perpetrated, thus far the law has been vindicated.

Recent Appointments.

Mr. GEORGE HARRINGTON has been appointed, by the Secretary of the Treasury, chief clerk of that Department; and Mr. JOHN MCGINNIS, the late chief clerk, has been appointed general superintendent of the numerous marine hospitals erected and erecting in the United States, and also superintendent of the lighthouses, beacons, and buoys on the Pacific coast. Mr. HARRINGTON is a gentleman of fine talents and indefatigable business habits. There is every reason to believe that he will prove to be an efficient officer. The duties attaching to the new sphere of Mr. MCGINNIS are highly important and responsible, and every confidence is felt that he will perform them in a creditable manner.

AUTHORITY OF LAW.—The Salem (Mass.) Gazette forcibly remarks that "certain popular errors touching the fundamental principles of society have been brought into prevalence by superficial and inaccurate estimates, which need to be rectified. The authority of law in a republic does not rest upon the inherent correctness or justice of a particular enactment, but upon the social compact. The whole people are under an actual agreement, a binding contract, to obey and uphold such laws as may be enacted by their agents, within the limits of a Constitution established by the whole people. Scarcely a law passes without opposition, based more or less upon principle; but, when passed, and while on the statute book, it binds all. A departure from this principle involves the utter overthrow of all the securities and privileges of society."

COMMISSIONERS ON CLAIMS AGAINST MEXICO.

FRIDAY, April 4, 1851.

The Board met according to adjournment; present all the members.

Several unfinished cases were taken up and considered; and, without coming to a conclusion thereon, the Board adjourned until 11 a. m. to-morrow.

The Navy of the United States.

We lately received, through the polite attention of the Chief Clerk of the Navy Department, copies of the *Navy Register* for the present year, which we laid aside for the purpose of making an analysis thereof; but have since found this so well done by the collaborators of the New York *Commercial Advertiser*, that we at once avail ourselves of their compilation. The navy of the United States at present consists of seventy-five vessels, carrying two thousand and eleven guns. These comprise twelve ships of the line, fourteen frigates, twenty-one sloops of war, four brig, five steam frigates, and ten steamships; which three are of the first class. The following (says the *Commercial Advertiser*) is a list of commissions and warrant officers in the service:

Grade.	No.	Grade.	No.
Captains.	97	Midshipmen.	239
Commodores.	30	Master.	171
Lieutenants.	327	Master's Mate.	19
Surgeons.	68	Second Master.	3
Passed Assistant.	34	Master's Mate.	19
Assistant do.	44	Boatswain.	43
Purser.	63	Gunner.	46
Chaplain.	29	Carpenter.	45
Chief Master.	12	Salmon.	17
Masters in line of promotion.	11	Total.	1347

The senior of the several grades, with the time of entering the service and dates of present commissions, are:

Captain James Barron, entered service March 9, 1791; present commission May 29, 1849; Commander L. E. Simonds, January 1, 1812, December 22, 1838; Lieut. W. A. C. Farragut, January 16, 1809, December 9, 1844; Surgeon Jonathan Green, January 29, 1800, October 27, 1844; Passed Asst. Surg. John B. Elliot, January 20, 1829, January 20, 1829; Assistant Surg. E. H. Van Wyck, June 1828, June 1828; Passed Asst. Surg. John B. Elliot, December 6, 1806, April 25, 1832; Chaplain John W. Grier, March 3, 1826, March 3, 1826; Professor of Mathematics J. H. C. Coffin, January 25, 1838, August 14, 1849; Master P. J. Wilkinson, December 15, 1837, June 25, 1850; Passed Midshipman Samuel Pearce, March 30, 1833, July 9, 1839; Midshipman John Adams, September 5, 1845, July 2, 1849; Master Augustus Ford, March 28, 1840, March 28, 1840; Master W. H. Morse, July 1, 1839, March 3, 1849; Master's Mate Adair, August 1, 1840, August 1, 1840; Passed Asst. Surg. John B. 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John B. Elliot, December 6, 180